Polydactyly, the presence of supernumerary digits on the leg, has been reported in the world literature (1, 2, 3, 4). However, since it is not often seen, we felt it would be of interest to report a case brought to the I.S.U. Veterinary Clinic.

A two-month old Shetland pony was admitted to the clinic October 20, 1964. The pony had an accessory digit on the medial side of the right fore-leg (figure 1). A radiograph (figure 2) showed that the appendage articulated with the second metacarpal (medial splint bone), and that it had three phalanges. No sesamoids were present in the vestigial digit.

Surgery was performed the same day the horse was admitted. The pony was anesthetized and the skin was incised around the distal end of the second metacarpal. The end of the metacarpal was severed with a wire saw and the digit was removed. The larger vessels were ligated, the skin was sutured, and the leg was bandaged. The animal was discharged after it recovered from anesthesia.

Although supernumerary digits do not interfere with locomotion, they detract from the appearance of the animal and are considered a fault.

Use of polydactyly affected animals for breeding is debatable. Some authors (4) class polydactyly as a non-inheritable teratologic defect in the development of the fetus which would not be transmitted, but others (3) say that it is a throw-back to the early ancestors of the equine which had more than one digit on their feet.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

2. ———. The development of the skeleton of the limbs of the horse with observations on polydactyly, J. of Anat. and Physiol., 28 (new series, part two) 5:342-369, 1894.
Research

Drs. A. E. Ledet and J. H. Greve are conducting research on swine lungworms (*Metastrongylus* spp.). They have completed a 12 month survey on the incidence of lungworms in marketed swine. The survey was done at packing plants and included swine from all areas of the state. Approximately 14,000 head of swine are represented by this survey. This survey indicates a widespread occurrence and a high incidence of lungworm infection. Further work is being contemplated on the intermediate hosts and field transmission of swine lungworms as it relates to conditions of climate and hog raising practices in Iowa.

The goal for eradicating hog cholera is 1972. Farmers can help by having their pigs properly vaccinated, reporting any suspected illness, and observing all quarantines for hog cholera.

Wanted:

Old journals and textbooks related to the field of Veterinary Medicine. Send to: Veterinary Students Library Iowa Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa